



R & D NEWS



Janet Napolitano, Governor

Volume IV, Number 5

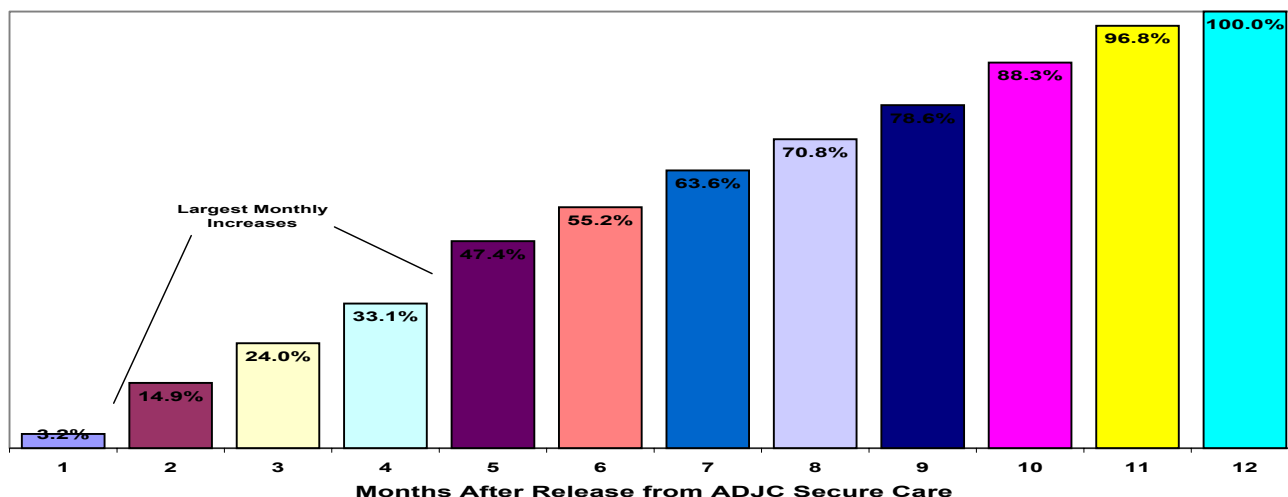
Research and Development

Michael D. Branham, Director

Sep-Oct 2003

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections * 1624 West Adams * Phoenix, Arizona 85007 * 602-542-2053

12 MONTH RECIDIVISM ANALYSIS OF 2001 ADJC RELEASES



Denise Gottfredson, Stacy Najaka and Brook Kearley, *Effectiveness of Drug Treatment Court: Evidence from a Randomized Trial*, *Criminology and Public Policy*, March 2003.

Authors found the Baltimore Drug Court program reduced criminal offending in a population of drug-addicted chronic offenders. Drug courts attempt to create a specific deterrent effect for participants by imposing a strict sentence, suspending it and then threatening to re-impose it if the offender fails to comply with court conditions. The authors studied the Baltimore City Drug Treatment Court (BCDTC) which "...combines intensive supervision, drug testing, drug treatment and judicial monitoring over the course of approximately two years." A total of 235 subjects for the study were randomly assigned to either the BCDTC or treatment as usual. Those placed in the BCDTC were given the Addiction Severity Index to measure their motivation and need for treatment, and upon placement in the program, were required to undergo supervision, drug testing and treatment. "Treated drug court subjects were far less likely than both untreated drug court subjects and control subjects to be rearrested (56.7% vs. 75% vs. 81.3%)." Cost savings offered by the program were questioned, however, when it was found that the total number of days the BCDTC subjects were incarcerated was only slightly less than for subjects handled in the traditional manner. "Drug treatment court clients spend fewer days behind bars prior to their disposition and as a result of their initial sentence, but about twice as many days behind bars as a result of sanctions for noncompliance as do control subjects."

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA

Which Arizona juvenile justice program received the *Best Practices of 2003, Excellence Award* from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission?

Charles Puzzanchera, *Juvenile Delinquency Probation Caseload, 1990-1999*, OJJDP Fact Sheet, September 2003.

Nationally, the number of cases placed on juvenile probation increased 44% between 1990 and 1999. In 1999, probation (62%) was the most likely disposition for cases adjudicated delinquent. In 1999, 63% of the juveniles adjudicated on person offenses, 64% adjudicated on property offenses, 63% adjudicated on drug offenses and 60% adjudicated on public order offenses were placed on probation. Most juveniles placed on probation were male (76%), however, the proportion of females increased from 19% in 1990 to 24% in 1999.

Anne Stahl, *Drug Offense Cases in Juvenile Courts, 1990 – 1999*, OJJDP Fact Sheet, September 2003.

Nationally, the number of juvenile court cases involving drug offenses more than doubled from 5% in 1990 to 11% in 1999. The proportion of the drug offense caseload involving white juveniles increased from 54% in 1990 to 71% in 1999. More than two-thirds (67%) of the drug cases that were formally handled resulted in the juvenile being adjudicated delinquent.

Terrence Thornberry and Marvin Krohn, *The Self Report Method for Measuring Delinquency and Crime, Measurement and Analysis of Crime and Justice*, National Institute of Justice, July 2000.

Early studies on delinquency and crime relied on official sources of data such as police, court and prison records. These sources were found lacking because they did not capture the hidden delinquency and crime that were not recorded in official records. Thornberry and Krohn found the "...self report method possesses acceptable reliability for most analytic purposes...(and) are no less reliable than other social science measures." They also found the self report method to be a valid source of information on undetected criminal behavior. Dr. Edwin Sutherland provided the impetus for using self reports for work he did involving white collar crime in 1949. Many studies have since been conducted using self report data, with the largest current efforts being the *National Youth Survey* and the *Monitoring the Future* programs. When comparing data from official, victim and self-report sources Hindelang et al., found that self-report data tapped into a different domain of crime, and did not include many of the more serious crimes for which people were arrested. Thornberry and Krohn recommend that self report measures, to be useful, should include a wide range of delinquent acts including serious as well as minor acts and that a frequency scale should be introduced to allow for the identification of high-rate offenders. "Audio-assisted computerized interviews produce increased reporting of many sensitive topics, including delinquency and drug use. Greater use of this approach is warranted."

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER

The Yuma County Juvenile Court Restitution program was awarded the *Best Practices of 2003, Excellence Award* by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission for their efforts to provide juvenile probationers who have committed victim related crimes to earn money by completing community work projects. The earned money goes directly to the victim. Eighteen other Arizona programs were nominated for the *Best Practices of 2003, Excellence Award* including ADJC's Parole Reinforcement program.